

# V FOR VENDETTA™

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Suggested  
For Mature  
Readers

By Alan Moore and David Lloyd





# **V FOR VENDETTA™**

By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Color artists:

**Steve Whitaker**

**Siobhan Dodds**

**David Lloyd**

Lettering:

**Steve Craddock**

**V FOR VENDETTA 9**

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"WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMEONE WHO *ISN'T* 'NORMAL PEOPLE'... EITHER PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY.

"IT'S THE 'MENTALLY' BIT THAT BOTHERS ME..."

"... BECAUSE IF I'M GOING TO CRACK THIS CASE... AND I *AM*... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET RIGHT INSIDE HIS HEAD.

"TO THINK THE WAY *HE* THINKS..."

"... AND THAT SCARES ME."

I SAID THAT.

I SAID THAT A YEAR AGO, AND NOTHING'S CHANGED, IT'S STILL TRUE.

I'M STILL SCARED.

I KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THIS STUFF, COULDN'T ASK WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION.

LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE; STANDARD DOSE IS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MICROGRAMMES, BUT HOW DO I MEASURE THAT?

THEY SAY THE TINIEST AMOUNTS CAN ALTER EVERYTHING...

THE FAINTEST TRACES.

# CHAPTER 4 VESTICES



I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CAMPS BEFORE, ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS. SO THIS IS THE TOILET WE FLUSHED ALL THOSE PEOPLE DOWN...



FOUR TABLETS. I WONDER IF THAT'S ENOUGH? I WONDER IF THAT'S TOO MANY?

OH WELL.

AGAINST MY TONGUE LIKE LITTLE PIECES OF SOAP... MY SALIVA TASTING OF TINFOIL... A BUBBLE OF APPREHENSION FORMING LOW IN MY STOMACH...



I SWALLOW, FEELING AS IF I'M LETTING GO OF SOMETHING.

THERE.

NOW I'M STRAPPED IN, COUNTDOWN TICKING FROM BOWEL TO BLOOD-STREAM TO BRAIN, TOWARDS TAKE-OFF, BUT I'VE NEVER FLOWN BEFORE. WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?



NOTHING. NOTHING YET. BETTER TAKE A LOOK AROUND, WHILE IT'S LIGHT.

THESE MUST BE THE OVENS, OVENS FOR PEOPLE, PEOPLE OVENS...

NO, NO USE: STILL CANT MAKE IT SEEM REAL. IF I'D KNOWN THIS WAS HAPPENING, WOULD I STILL HAVE JOINED THE PARTY?



PROBABLY. NO BETTER ALTERNATIVES.

WE COULDN'T LET THE CHAOS AFTER THE WAR CONTINUE. ANY SOCIETY'S BETTER THAN THAT. WE NEEDED ORDER...



... OR AT LEAST I DID. LOSING SMITH AND LITTLE PAUL LIKE THAT. EVERYTHING WAS DISINTEGRATING AND I JUST WANTED...

... TO ...



ELUGH...



I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE L.S.D.

NOT HERE.

BUT I WANTED TO KNOW... TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING HIM...

IT'S THIS PLACE. IF I CAN JUST GET OUTSIDE ITS WALLS UNTIL I FEEL BETTER...

NO PROBLEM, THE MAIN GATE'S BACK THIS WAY...

I CAN'T, I CAN'T WALK THAT FAR, MY LEGS FEEL LIKE JELLY AND EVERYTHING'S THRUJMMING...

THRUJMMMMMMINGS...

IT'S THE DRUG, I JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER IT'S THE DRUG DOING THIS, BUT...

...BUT THEY SAY L.S.D. ONLY MAGNIFIES WHAT'S ALREADY THERE. CHRIST, WHY DID I TAKE THIS NOW, WHEN I'M SO CONFUSED ANYWAY?

I'M TRAPPED IN A JOB THAT DISTURBS ME, BUT I CAN'T TELL ANYONE, I'M SO ALONE...

SO ALONE.

OH.

OH LOOK...

LOOK, THEY'RE ALL SMILING, THEY'RE ALL HAPPY. GOD, IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW RICH THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN WAS, A THOUSAND SPECIAL BLENDS OF COFFEE...

THE GIRLS I SAW HUGGING EACH OTHER ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS, AND THE MEN, SO GENTLE, SO SOFTLY SPOKEN...

OH JESUS, I'VE  
MISSED YOU.

I'VE MISSED YOUR VOICES  
AND YOUR WALK, YOUR  
FOOD, YOUR CLOTHES,  
YOUR DYED PINK HAIR.

MY FRIENDS... THERE  
AT THE CARNIVAL, THE  
GAY PRIDE MARCHES.

SAY YOU SAW BEYOND  
MY UNIFORM. PLEASE  
SAY YOU KNEW I  
CARED, I...

WAIT...

WAIT! WHERE  
ARE YOU GOING?

PLEASE...

PLEASE DON'T  
LEAVE ME.

WE TREATED YOU SO BADLY,  
ALL THE HATEFUL THINGS WE  
PRINTED, DID AND SAID... BUT  
PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T DE-  
SPISE US, WE WERE STUPID, WE  
WERE KIDS, WE DIDN'T KNOW.

COME BACK,  
OH PLEASE  
COME BACK.

I LOVE  
YOU.

AH...AH...

AH...AH...AH...AH...

I LOVE  
YOU, I...

OH ERIC, LOOK AT YOU IN YOUR PYJAMAS! GO BACK TO BED. I'M JUST MAKING BACON AND EGGS TO KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP.

DELIA?



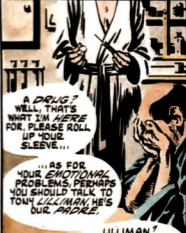
DELIA, I'M SO MIXED UP IF I COULD JUST GET THINGS STRAIGHT...

WHAT THINGS?



WHAT I'M DOING HERE, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

I REMEMBERED THAT I CAME HERE TO FIND SOMETHING OUT... SOMETHING VERY VITAL TO VARIOUS VENTURES... I WAS PLANNING TO TAKE A DRUG...



A DRUG? WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR. PLEASE ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE...

...AS FOR YOUR EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO TOMMY LILLIMAN, HE'S OUR PADRE.

LILLIMAN? I THOUGHT HE WAS A BISHOP?



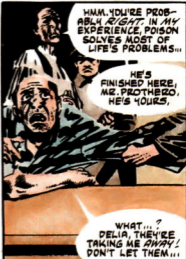
NO, MERELY A PAWN.

NOW, TELL ME: WHEN DID YOU STOP BELIEVING IN GOD?



B-BUT... I NEVER SAID...

DON'T MOLLICODDLE HIM! BLESSED SAY-PILOTS! NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM A SHOT OF JUNGLE-JUICE WON'T CURE, EH?



HMM, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. IN MY EXPERIENCE, POISON SOLVES MOST OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS...

HE'S FINISHED HERE, MR. PROTHEZO, HE'S YOURS.

WHAT...? DELIA, THEY'RE TAKING ME AWAY! DON'T LET THEM...



COME ON, MATEY. DON'T MAKE ME MAD.

DELIA?

DELIA, WHAT ABOUT THE BACON AND EGGS?

... IN NOMINI PATRI, ET FILII, ET SPIRITUS SANCTI...



DELIA, PLEASE. YOU WEREN'T LIKE THEM. I KNOW YOU WEREN'T. YOU HAD A HEART. PLEASE DON'T LET THEM DO THIS.

DELIA, ARE YOU LISTENING? I...



OH NO.

...MUGH...

HOW?

HOW DID I GET  
HERE, TO THIS  
STINKING PLACE;  
MY JOB, MY LIFE;  
MY CONSCIENCE;  
MY PRISON...

THE ANSWER'S  
THERE, WRITTEN ON  
THE FLOOR FOR ME  
TO READ, BUT I  
DON'T UNDER-  
STAND IT.

AND YES, IT'S  
JUST THE  
DRUGS, BUT...

BUT HE WAS DRUGGED  
TOO, LOCKED AWAY TO  
DIE, AND HE REACHED  
SOME UNDERSTANDING.

WHY CAN'T I?  
I LOOK AT THIS  
AND PATTERN,  
BUT WHERE ARE  
THE ANSWERS?

WHO IMPRISONED  
ME HERE?  
WHO KEEPS  
ME HERE?

WHO CAN RELEASE  
ME? WHO'S  
CONTROLLING AND  
CONSTRAINING MY  
LIFE, EXCEPT...

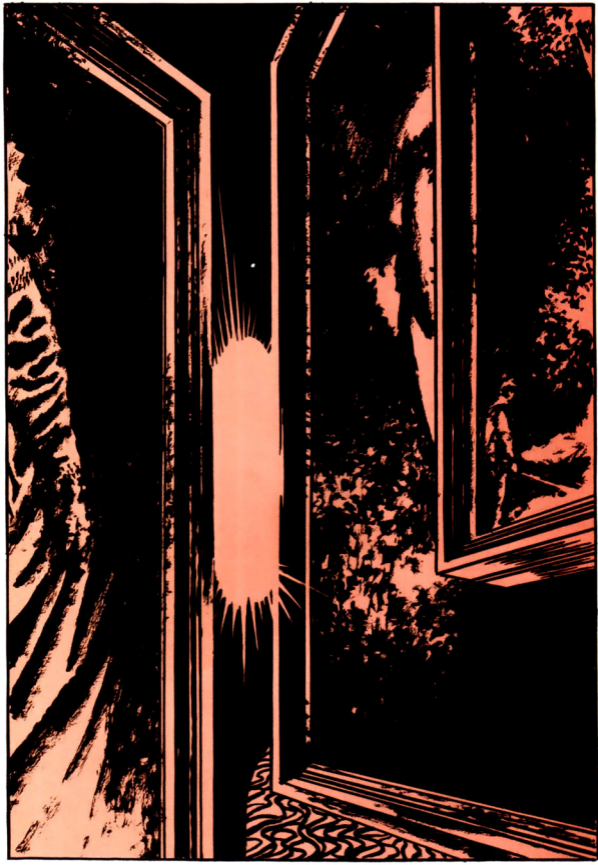
...ME?

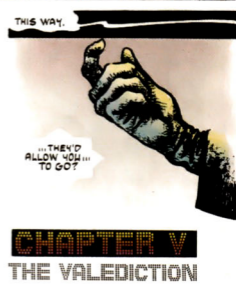
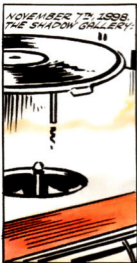
I...  
I'M  
FREE.

FREEEEEE!





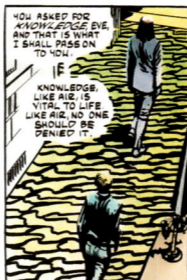






WHY DOES EVERYONE NEED A BIG DEMONSTRATION? I ASK THE SIMPLEST QUESTION, AND IT'S LIKE ALICE IN WONDERLAND.

I'VE BEEN READING FOR MONTHS. I'M SMARTER NOW. COULDN'T YOU TRY JUST EXPLAINING FOR ME?



YOU ASKED FOR KNOWLEDGE, EVE, AND THAT IS WHAT I SHALL PASS ON TO YOU.

IF KNOWLEDGE, LIKE AIR, IS VITAL TO LIFE, LIKE AIR, NO ONE SHOULD BE DENIED IT.



OH, Y. COME ON...



YOU'VE ALWAYS KEPT THINGS MYSTERIOUS: YOURSELF, THIS PLACE, YOUR PLANS... IF KNOWLEDGE IS LIKE AIR, YOU'VE BEEN SUFFOCATING ME.

NOT AT ALL. I'VE BEEN TEACHING YOU TO BREATHE.

THIS WAY.



REGARD THE AIR OF KNOWLEDGE HERE CONDENSED TO LIQUID ELECTRICITY.

THE FACTS OF ALL SOCIETY ARE CENTRALIZED HEREIN... A FACT THAT'S FIGURED IN SOCIETY'S UNDOINGS...

...FOR I HAVE TAPPED THEIR KNOWLEDGE—WELL. SOON, EVERYONE SHALL DRINK.



Y'KNOW, I GET EVEN I COULD WORK THIS COMPUTER. IT'S REALLY LINKED TO FATE?

...AND FATE IS LINKED TO EVERYTHING IN A BUREAUCRACY, THE FILE CARDS ARE REALITY.

PUNCHING NEW HOLES, WE RECREATE THE WORLD.

THIS WAY.



OH, ARE THESE ROOMS CONNECTED?

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ALL YOUR HERITAGE.

IT INCLUDES ALSO COURAGE AND BELIEF, LIKE HERS THAT WE COMMEMORATE HEREIN...



...AND ROMANCE.

ALWAYS, ALWAYS ROMANCE.

'MOST INSURRECTION'S CLAMOUR, WE MAY EASILY FORGET JUST WHAT IT IS FOR WHICH WE STRIVE...

ISN'T IT DANCING? SCENTED SHOULDERS? PUPILS WIDENED BY DESIRE OR WINE?

ANARCHY MUST EMBRACE THE DIN OF BOMBS AND CANNON-FIRE...

... YET ALWAYS MUST IT LOVE SWEET MUSIC MORE. "

... BUT HOW STRANGE... THE CHANGE... FROM MA-JOR TO MI-NOR...

NO, I STILL CAN'T GET THAT LAST BIT.

PERSEVERE, EVE. UNDERSTANDING MUSIC, WE MAY HEAR THE MUSIC THAT THERE IS IN LIFE, FROM ITS FIRST INSUFFICIENT TRILLS ...

... LUNTO ITS CLOSING MINOR CHORDS.

SO LET ME SEE ...

OH, I GET IT. THOSE THREE ROOMS UPSTAIRS ARE JOINED WITH THE PIANO ROOM BELOW.

INDEED. IMAGINE WE'RE INSIDE YOUR MIND, EACH AREA WITH ITS SKILLS AND FUNCTIONS: KNOWLEDGE, PLEASURE, CREATIVITY ...

ALL THAT REMAINS, THEN, IS TO MAKE THE PROPER NEURAL CONNECTIONS.

UP THERE, THE HIGHER ATTRIBUTES OF REASON, LOVE AND CULTURE ARE CONTAINED.

WAIT. LET ME GET MY BEARINGS. MY ROOM'S ON THIS LEVEL, OFF THE OTHER STAIRCASE SOMEWHERE OVER... THERE? IS THAT RIGHT?

DOWN HERE, THE SHADOW GALLERY HAS EYES.

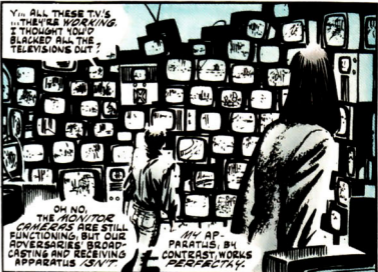
UNERRINGLY.

BUT COME... HERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN...

...INDEED FEW MEN HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO STUDY THEIR OWN OPTIC NERVES.



Y'IN ALL THESE T.V.'S ...THEY'RE WORKING. I THOUGHT YOU'D BLANKED ALL THE TELEVISIONS OUT?



OH NO, THE MONITOR CAMERAS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING, BUT OUR ADVERSARIES' BROADCASTING AND RECEIVING APPARATUS ISN'T.

MY APPARATUS, BY CONTRAST, WORKS PERFECTLY.

OF COURSE WITH ALL STATE BROADCASTING BLANKED OUT, THE ONLY THINGS I SEEM TO GET ARE ALL THESE RIT-ZONE SOAP OPERAS AND BAD DISASTER MOVIES.



SOME-TIMES I MISS "STORM SAXON."

THE DIALOGUE WAS BETTER.

B-BUT ... YOU CAN SEE ALL LONDON FROM HERE ...



NATURALLY. THIS ROOM'S THE PINNACLE OF AN INVERTED HILL, WHICH ONE DESCENDS TO REACH THE PEAK, BUT ONCE ARRIVED, CAN SEE FOR MILES.

COME ...

TOD MUCH TELEVISION'S BAD, AND YOU HAVE HOMEWORK STILL TO DO.



IN HERE YOU'LL FIND BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT THAT WILL TELL YOU HOW TO MAKE EXPLOSIVES OUT OF COFFEE, OR MAKE PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS AS CHEAP AS WATER.

USE THEM WISELY, IF AT ALL.

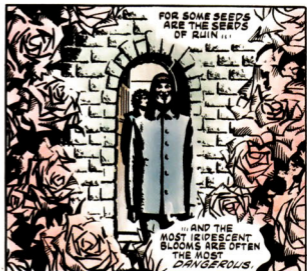


UNLIKE T.V., WE CANNOT HAVE TOO MUCH OF SCIENCE, DESPITE ITS NUCLEAR QUIRKS.



WITH SCIENCE, IDEAS CAN GERMINATE WITHIN A BED OF THEORY, FORM, AND PRACTICE THAT ASSISTS THEIR GROWTH ... BUT WE, AS GARDENERS, MUST BEWARE ...

FOR SOME SEEDS ARE THE SEEDS OF RUIN ...



... AND THE MOST IRIDESCENT BLOOMS ARE OFTEN THE MOST DANGEROUS.

OH, THE ROSE ROOM.

YOU KNOW, THIS PLACE MAKES ME FEEL FUNNY. IT'S LIKE THAT RAY BRADBURY STORY YOU READ ME, WITH THE CORN-FIELD, AND EACH EAR OF CORN IS SOME-BODY'S LIFE...

... EXCEPT YOU CAN'T HAVE A ROSE FOR EVERYBODY HERE, CAN YOU? JUST SPECIAL PEOPLE...

IS THERE A ROSE HERE FOR THE LEADER; FOR MR. SUSAN?

OH NO, NOT HERE, FOR HIM, I'VE CULTIVATED A MOST SPECIAL ROSE,

COME... LET US LEAVE THIS SCENTED BOWER, I TRUST YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.

YOU'RE LETTING ME LOOK AFTER THE ROSES? THAT'LL BE NICE, I...

AH, BACK ON THE STAIRWELL, ARE WE GOING FARTHER DOWN?

OH YES, YOU'LL COME TO KNOW THIS PLACE, IN ALL ITS LENGTHS AND DEPTHS,

WHAT'S ON THE NEXT FLOOR?

NOT SO MUCH A FLOOR, BUT MORE A MEZZANINE, THERE ARE THINGS STORED HERE THAT WE'LL SOON HAVE NEED OF FARTHER DOWN.

THERE'S BUT ONE FLOOR TO GO, IF YOU COULD CARRY ONE OF THESE SMALL PARCELS, I'D BE GRATEFUL... BUT TAKE CARE.

GELIGNITE.

GELIGNITE? OH JESUS...

Y, I'M NOT HELPING WITH ANY KILLING. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH IT?

SURE, WHAT'S IN THEM?

DISPOSE OF IT.

AFTER ALL, AS YOU POINT OUT, YOU'LL WON'T BE NEEDING IT.

ANARCHY WEARS TWO  
FACES, BOTH CREATOR  
AND DESTROYER.

THUS DESTROYERS  
TOPPLE EMPIRES;  
MAKE A CANVAS OF CLEAN  
RUBBLE WHERE CREATORS  
CAN THEN BUILD  
A BETTER  
WORLD.

RUBBLE,  
ONCE ACHIEVED,  
MAKES FURTHER  
RUINS MEANS  
IRRELEVANT.

AWAY WITH OUR  
EXPLOSIVES, THEN!

AWAY WITH OUR  
DESTROYERS!  
THEY HAVE NO  
PLACE WITHIN OUR  
BETTER WORLD.

BUT LET US RAISE A  
TOAST TO ALL OUR  
BOMBERS, ALL OUR  
BASTARDS, MOST UN-  
LOVELY AND MOST  
UNFORGIVABLE.

LET'S  
DRINK THEIR  
HEALTH ...

... THEN MEET  
WITH THEM  
NO MORE.

OH, OH, IT'S LOVELY!  
IT'S... V, WHERE  
DID YOU GET ...

HUSH,  
PLEASE SHOW  
SOME REVER-  
ENCE.

COME, LET US BE  
DISCREET AND  
PLACE THE GELI-  
NITE BEHIND THE  
LILIES ...

OH, V, THESE  
FLOWERS ...

THESE RAILS ...  
THEY AREN'T  
REAL GOLD, ARE  
THEY? I LOVE  
THE WAY IT'S  
PAINTED ...

IT'S LIKE A  
BEAUTIFUL OLD  
BARGE.

WHAT'S  
IT FOR? V?

Y, I SAID,  
WHAT'S IT  
FOR?

Y?





Y, PLEASE, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND NOW YOU WALK OFF WITHOUT ANSWERING ME.

YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME ANY ANSWERS AT ALL, I STARTED OUT ASKING YOU WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO!!!



YOU ASKED ME TO REVEAL MY WILL, I HAVE DONE SO.

HMM?

Y, I'M TIRED OF GUESSING GAMES, I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE PLANNING TO GO OUT OR NOT.



NO, I HAVE TO STAY IN. I'M WAITING.

WAITING? FOR WHAT?

NOT FOR WHAT, FOR WHOM,

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT, FOR WHOM ARE YOU WAITING?



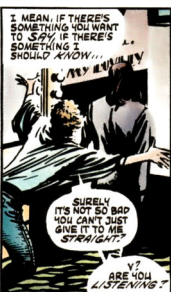
I'M WAITING FOR THE MAN.



IF THAT'S ANOTHER...

IT IS, ISN'T IT? IT'S ANOTHER BLOODY QUOTE! I'VE HEARD IT ON THE JUKEBOX.

Y, I HATE THIS, ALL OUR CONVERSATIONS TURN INTO CROSS-WORD PUZZLES!



I MEAN, IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, IF THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW...

SURELY IT'S NOT SO BAD YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT?

Y? ARE YOU LISTENING?



LOOK, I'M SERIOUS!!!

I GIVE UP ON THE PUZZLES, I JUST WANT TO TURN THE PAGE UPSIDE DOWN AND READ THE ANSWERS.

WELL?

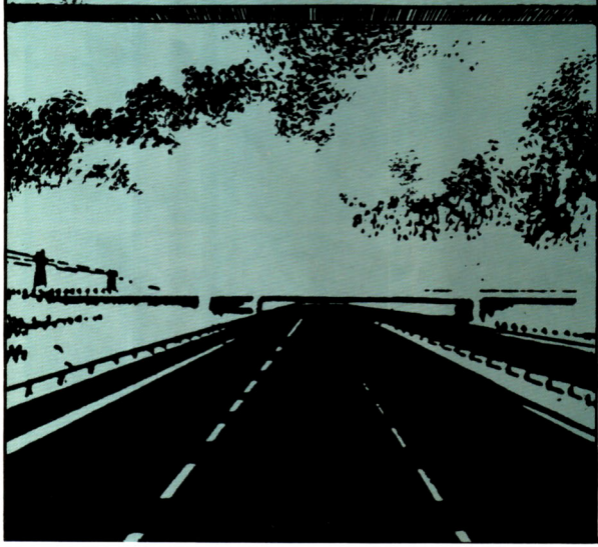


Y, I'M WAITING.

FAREWELL, MY LOVELY

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?

**YOU ARE NOW  
LEAVING  
LONDON**



NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1998:



**CHAPTER 6**  
**VECTORS**



"9.11.98; 2.30 PM, SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY LEADER TO RESTORE PUBLIC CALM..."

THEY CAN'T BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, CAN THEY?



FROM ALL REPORTS, POOR OLD SUSAN'S ABSOLUTELY BARKING! HOW WILL SEEING THAT RESTORE PUBLIC CALM?

ONLY SOFT CENTRES LEFT. SHIT.



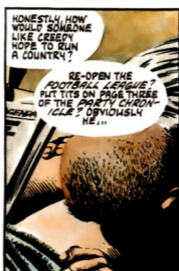
OF COURSE, EVERYBODY'S SEEN IT COMING FOR YEARS, ALL THOSE THINGS HE SAID, BACK WHEN HE WAS STILL CHIEF CONSTABLE...

HIM, PERHAPS STRAWBERRY...



OMF I BET ... LB ... I BET THIS WAS CREEPY'S IDEA, PROBABLY HOPING FOR RIOTS SO HE CAN DEMAND SUSAN ALLOW HIM MORE THUS FOR HIS PRIVATA ARMY.

SWEATY LITTLE CROOK.



HONESTLY, HOW WOULD SOMEONE LIKE CREEPY HOPE TO RUN A COUNTRY?

RE-OPEN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE? PUT TITS ON PAGE THREE OF THE PARTY CHRONICLE? OBVIOUSLY HE...



NO.



NOT NOY, CONRAD.

FOR NOW YOU CAN HAVE A NICE CHOCOLATE INSTEAD. OPEN. OPEN UP...

THERE, AS FOR THE REST OF THE BOX ...



... PERHAPS WHEN YOU'RE LEADER.



WULL, MESTER CREEPY. YUR LIP EN ABOUT EARLY THEN?

HELLO, ALLY. BY HECK, THE LEADER'S PICKED A WINDY OLD DRY FOR HIS WALKABOUT, EH?

AHE, WULL, ET'S AN ELL WEND THAT BLOWS NAE BASTUD ENNY GUID, EH?

HA HA. YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT, ALLY. YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...

I MEAN, TAKE THIS PARADE. ONCE THE PUNTERS SEE WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LEADING 'EM...

I MEAN, WHO KNOWS?

CAREFUL WITH THAT CATTLE-BARRIER, SONNY.

SORRY, SIR.

I RECKON AFTER TODAY, THEY'LL BE BEGGING FOR A LEADER WITH GUTS.

I TELL YOU, RUNNING THE FINGER'S GOT POSSIBILITIES. DUNNO WHY NO-BODY'S REALISED BEFORE...

AYE, HANG ABOUT A MENNIT, EH?

SURE, I MEAN, WHY DIDN'T MY PREDECESSOR TRY SOMETHING?

FOX BRAVO TWO, WHITEHALL CLEAR TO CHARING CROSS...

CONFIRM RICHMOND TERRACE CLEAR, OVER?

WHAT WAS HE LIKE, OLD ALMOND? BIT OF A PONCE, FROM ALL ACCOUNTS...

WULL, HE'D NO CONSIDER USEN MY LAADS FER SECURITY, THAT'S CERTEN, TAE STUCK AP.

A YERY SUPERIOR MAAN, MESTER ALMOND. THAA'S WHUT A LIKE ABOUT YU...

A MEAN, YUR NO SUPERIOR ET ALL. QUATE THE RUHVUSE, EN FAACT.

LISSEN, A GOATA PESS OFF. SEE YU LATER, A'RIGHT?

RIGHT. SEE YOU LATER.





LOOK... HERE IT IS. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HIDDEN, BUT YOU CAN SEE THE LENS.

EVERY PARTY MEMBER'S BED-ROOM HAS ONE, EVEN HIS OWN!

AND HE WONTERS WHY I WON'T LET HIM TOUCH ME.

OF COURSE, NONE OF HIS SPY CAMERAS ARE WORKING NOW.

THERE HE SITS AT WORK AMIDST ALL THE FUSS OF THIS PARADE AND ALL HIS LITTLE SCREENS ARE DEAD.

A BLIND YOYEUR. HA!

HERE THEY ARE CONEAD. HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SEE THEM.

YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT'S BEEN, MANOEUVERING HIM INTO A POSITION WHERE HE CAN TAKE CHARGE.

OF COURSE, I'LL BE MAKING ALL THE REAL DECISIONS... BACKED UP BY YOUR MUSCLE, OBVIOUSLY.

I'M GOING TO BE LIKE EVA PERON; YOU KNOW, DID YOU EVER SEE "EVITA"?

DON'T CRY FOR ME, ARGENTINA. THE TRUTH IS...

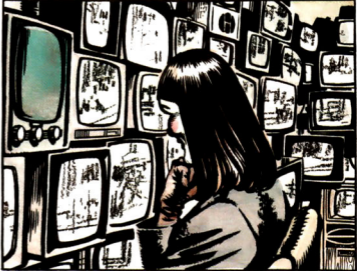
EH C'MOAN, GESSA DRAG ...

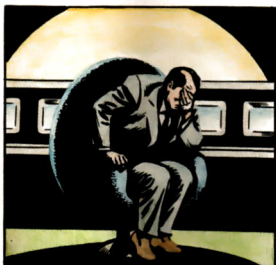
A-A! DON'T GRAB. THIS GRASS COST GOOD MONEY.

IF YOU WANT SOME, YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN IT.

OH, A'LL EARN ET, A'RIGHT ...

AM VERY RELIABLE ON THE JOBS, SO THEY ...







... WIND SPINS WEATHER-  
VANE'S... WALKING, WALKING,  
THE HAPPY WANDERER,  
VALDERSE, VALDERA,  
IT ALL FITS ...

THINK  
LIKE HE THINKS,  
HE WALKED THE  
ROAD BEFORE ME...  
AND DID THOSE FEET,  
IN ANCIENT TIMES...  
BUT WHERE? WHERE  
DID HE GO...

LIKE A VIXEN TO ITS LAIR,  
LIKE A YOKE TO ITS HOLE,  
A VERITABLE VANISHING  
ACT, BUT WHERE? THINK  
LIKE HIM, THINK LIKE  
HIM, FULL OF VOODOO,  
FULL OF VISION,  
WHAT WOULD HE  
DO? WHERE  
WOULD HE...

UM?

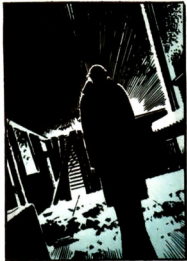
OF COURSE,

OF COURSE!

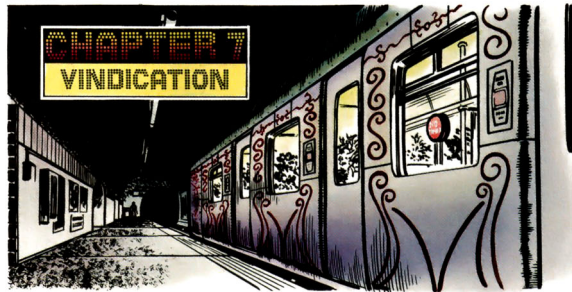
VICTORIA  
THIS STATION CLOSED

tails





**CHAPTER 7**  
**VINDICATION**





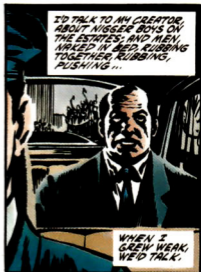
LAUGHING, CHEERING, WAVING: THEY AT LEAST HAVE NOT FORSAKEN ME...

BUT WHY CAN'T I FEEL ANYTHING FOR THEM?



THERE'S ONLY ME HERE, ISN'T THERE? I'VE KNOWN SINCE CHILDHOOD NO ONE ELSE IS REAL.

JUST ME AND GOD, NO BOIL UPON THE DRIVER'S NECK; NO STINKING LEATHERETTE; NO CROWDS...



I'D TALK TO MY CREATOR, ABOUT NIGGER BOYS ON THE ESTATES; AND MEN, NAKED IN BED, RUBBING TOGETHER, RUBBING, PUSHING...

WHEN I GREW WEAK, WE'D TALK.



I TALKED TO GOD, WHILE COLLEAGUES LAUGHED...

... BUT I WAS VINDICATED; GOD WAS REAL, EMBODIED IN A FORM THAT I COULD LOVE. WHEN I FIRST SAW HER SCREENS, HER SMOOTH UNYIELDING LINES...



NOT AS A WOMAN, WITH STRANGE SWEAT AND UGLY BODY HAIR, BUT SOMETHING COLD; HARD; SENSUAL. WE LOVED, MY GOD AND I, BUT THEN...

THEN SHE BETRAYED ME, NOW THERE'S NOTHING. NOW I AM ALONE...



... EXCEPT FOR THEM, WAVING BEYOND THE GLASS, I'LL TRY TO LOVE THEM MORE, THEY'RE ALL I HAVE.

SHOULD I WAVE BACK? IT MUSTN'T LOOK REHEARSED, OR INSINCERE, BUT BE INSTEAD A GESTURE FROM THE HEART...



... AS SPONTANEOUS AS THEIR OWN.



THEY LOVE ME, I PASS ON.

ENGLAND PREVAILS.

A'RIGHT... CUT DOON THE EMBANKMENT THE WHITEHALL AN' WAIT FOR THE MOTORCADE WITH THE PARTY FAITHFUL POON THERE.

... AN' LESS HAVE A BET MUIR CHEERIN' THESE TIME, EH?





COME ON! WHERE'S THE KIDS? HASN'T ANYONE GOT A FLOWER TO GIVE HIM?

YES.



YES, DESPITE MY FEAR, BECAUSE IT'S INSIGNIFICANT, LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT ME...

YES, THOUGH THEY'LL KILL ME, BECAUSE IF I DON'T, LIFE MEANS NOTHING...



YES, BECAUSE OUR LIVES WERE WASTED ON YOUR VISIONS, AND THEY WERE ALL WE HAD.

YES, BECAUSE I CAN'T BEAR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO US...



YES, BECAUSE HISTORY'S MOVING MY LEGS AND NOTHING, NOTHING CAN STOP ME...

OY!

IT'S ALL - RIGHT, I KNOW HER, HIGH PARTY, LETTING HER THROUGH'LL LOOK GOOD.



YES, BECAUSE YOUR KIND LED US TO HELL AND NOW YOU SAY OUR ONLY HOPE IS STERNER LEADERS...

THIS WAY, SURE HE'LL APPRECIATE IT...



YES, BECAUSE I'M NEARLY THERE AND EVERYONE'S THINKING "SHE MUST BE IMPORTANT" AND I'M NOT, BUT I WILL BE...

STOP, LET ME TALK TO MY PEOPLE...



YES, BECAUSE I HAD A LIFE, A WORLD, A MARRIAGE AND I VALUED THEM BUT YOU DIDN'T...

SO NICE...

SO NICE MEETING SOMEONE, DO SHAKE HANDS...



YES, BECAUSE WE'VE MET A DOZEN TIMES BEFORE AND MY DEEK DIED FOR YOU AND GOD, YOU DON'T EVEN, DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY FACE!

PLEASE... DON'T BE SHY...

YES, YES...



YES.









OUGH...



BLOOD.

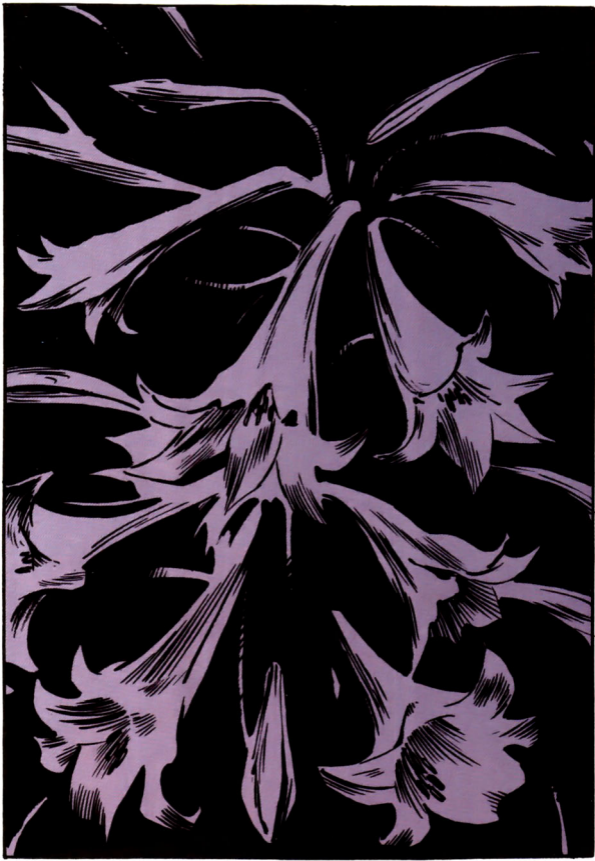


FLESH AND BLOOD  
AFTER ALL...

I KILLED  
YOU,  
MONSTER...



I KILLED  
YOU!





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